

Remarks/Arguments

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 13-24 are currently pending. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 17-24 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus leaving claims 13-16. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the canceled claims in a continuing application. These claims are canceled not for reasons related to patentability but solely because these claims are withdrawn as they are considered by the Patent Office to constitute separate and non-elected inventions.

II. Formal Matters

The priority claim in the specification has been updated as requested by the Examiner to indicate the status of U.S. Application 09/865,363.

III. Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 13-16 are rejected on the grounds of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,740,522. A terminal disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,740,522 is enclosed with this response, thereby obviating this rejection.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-265-7858.

Respectfully submitted,



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